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the hypothesis in the light of what he saw through the microscope, but the germ theory had to wait for laboratory verification at the hands of Pasteur. In connection with the theory of the transmission of disease by insects it is of interest to note that Sir Henry A. Blake, governor of Ceylon, has pointed out³ that the mosquito theory of the origin of malaria is as ancient as the *Susruta*, a Sanskrit medical classic at least 1,400 years old. Quite an anthology might be compiled of references from secular literature in which swamps, mosquitoes and malaria were vaguely associated as if in causal connection before King enunciated the theory in 1882. But no one ever thought of mosquitoes in relation to yellow fever before the time of Finlay and Walter Reed.

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THE LOWER TERTIARIES OF LOUISIANA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In preparing manuscript for publication on the lower Tertiaries of Louisiana it has seemed desirable to have a formational name for that portion of the Eocene usually styled in our former publications "Lower Claiborne." In accordance with the wishes of the committee on nomenclature the geographic name *St. Maurice* is here proposed for these well-known Mississippi embayment marine beds.

G. D. HARRIS

THE LENGTH OF SERVICE PENSIONS OF THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION

THE articles by Professors Cattell and Jastrow following that of Professor Lovejoy and the *Nation* editorial, have put in such strong light the disadvantages and the injustice of the recent ruling by the Carnegie Retiring Board, that it might seem little remains to be said. There can be little doubt that these articles express the sentiment of a great majority among those who have been looking forward to a service retiring allowance upon

the Carnegie Foundation. Some professors who have considered the system a great aid in securing stronger American universities, have now lost all interest in it. If a professor who entered early upon teaching must continue for forty years as a professor in order to acquire any benefits from the foundation, not much inducement is offered him.

There are, as it seems to me, two considerations not specially emphasized in the articles cited, which might well be taken up. In his report recently published, the president of the foundation lays stress upon the fact that the professors thus far retired upon the foundation because of age, all laid down their work with regret, and in some cases felt hurt that they had been induced to do so. No one familiar with university men will for a moment doubt that these statements represent the facts as regards an even larger body of the older professors. Among the middle-aged and young men of universities, and it might be added the student body, the opinion is probably as general that professors generally remain at their posts after their best work of teaching has passed. This opinion of the younger men does not spring altogether from a selfish desire to fill the positions of their seniors, since their conclusion expresses a law of human nature which is exemplified in every walk of life, but perhaps most strikingly upon the concert stage. When nowadays a young man states openly that he will retire from his post voluntarily before his powers have been impaired by age, he is perhaps cynically requested to set the statement down in writing; for, once admitted into the group of the older men, it is notorious that he acquires their point of view as naturally as liberals become transformed into conservatives after their admission to the British House of Lords.

The question of the relative teaching efficiency of professors at the different ages between forty and seventy-five years, is one to be decided by results, and it would be of special interest if the statistics recently gathered by the Carnegie Foundation from the so-called accepted institutions were compared and published. If the average age of the

³ *Jour. Ceylon Branch Brit. Med. Assoc.*, Colombo, 1905, II., 9.